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SOURCE As indicated

POPULATION DATA ON GERMANS IN THE ORBIT

GERMANS FROM EAST PRUSSIA, SILESIA RESETTLED IN GDR -- Hamburg, Die Welt, 27 Jan 1954

Berlin 26 January -- The Pressedienst der Heimatvertriebenen (Press Service of the Expellees) reports that all Germans arriving in the GDR from the former German territories east of the Oder-Neisse line must promise not to tell anyone about the conditions prevailing there. They must also give written assurances to the GDR authorities that they will not leave the GDR and that they will not take any trips to West Berlin or to West Germany.

The above information relates to the resettlement project now under way, in the course of which 30,000 Germans will be taken to the GDR from the former German territories by early summer. The transports which have arrived so far from Southeast Prussia, Eastern Brandenburg, and Silesia took up to 6 days [to reach Stettin?], while the transports from Pomerania reached Stettin after 2 days' rail travel.

All the returnees who have reached the GDR are unfit to work. Most of them are between 50 and 85 years old. Their relatives in the GDR are notified only a few days prior to their arrival and are not permitted to meet the transport on the way but must wait in their own home town.

The Pressedienst der Heimatvertriebenen further states that 300 Germans have been released during the first week of January from various prisons and labor camps in the Polish-administered former German territories. They had been sentenced to prison terms up to 10 years by Polish courts shortly after the end of the war and have now been released for good conduct.

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GERMANS IN EAST PRUSSIA LOSE CITIZENSHIP -- Hamburg, Hamburger Abendblatt,
11 Jan 54

Berlin, 11 January (DPA) -- Returnees have stated that many Germans in the northern part of East Prussia, occupied by the Soviets, have now been declared stateless. Those affected have been requested to settle in the Soviet Union.

Efforts by the remaining East Prussians to be sent to Germany through the mediation of the GDR embassy in Moscow were unsuccessful. Many of them could not prove their German citizenship, because the Soviets had taken away all their personal papers.

LOSS OF POPULATION IN GDR SEEN -- Essen, Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung,
30 Dec 53

The yearly report of the Deutsches Institut fuer Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute of Economic Research) in [West] Berlin states that the trend indicates that an estimated 350,000 persons have left the GDR during 1953. The excess of births over deaths in the GDR, on the other hand, is estimated at only 50,000-60,000. The loss of population through escape to the West is the more serious, since about 80 percent of the refugees are in the age group of employable persons.

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